**Vocabulary Words: Mountains Beyond Mountains, By Tracy Kidder**

1. **desertification**- the process by which an area becomes a desert; the rapid depletion of plant life and the loss of topsoil at desert boundaries and in the semiarid regions, usually caused by a combination of drought and the overexploitation of grasses and other vegetation by people
2. **plaintive**- expressing sorrow or melancholy (gloomy)
3. **junta**- (hoon-tuh) a small group ruling a country
4. **grisly**- causing a shudder or feeling of horror
5. **Mirebalais**- a city in Haiti
6. **Artibonite River**- longest and most popular river in Haiti, 320 km long
7. **circuitous**- roundabout; not direct
8. **haranguing**- a scolding or a long intense verbal attack